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SOURCE Cumhuriyet [Independent, pro-Democrat].

ARMY DISSENSION, PEASANT RESISTANCE REPORTED IN BULGARIA

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Edirne -- According to well-informed circles, the anti-Communist activities recently observed among Bulgarian workers have spread to the Bulgarian Army. This information has now been confirmed by a Bulgarian soldier who recently took refuge in Turkey and who said that he had become disgusted with the arbitrary actions of certain Soviet and Armenian civilians "before whom even Bulgarian colonels tremble." According to this soldier, the Bulgarian army is no longer an army of Bulgarians. He further declared that soldiers unable to escape to Turkey, as he had done, were fleeing to the mountains.(1)

Other reports reaching Edirne indicate that the Communists are making war preparations in the Balkans and have converted all Bulgarian industrial establishments to war production. In this connection, the Ruse factory, which has long been known in the Balkans for its mill machinery, has reportedly begun to manufacture military material.(2)

Sabotage and anti-Communist activities among the peasants are also increasing, as evidenced by an article in a Bulgarian newspaper which reached our hands today. The newspaper reports that only 39 percent of the land in Bulgaria has been planted and that seed has either been eaten by the peasants or deliberately left exposed to rot. The paper further reveals that no land whatever has been planted in the villages of Kalevitsa, Rosen, and Tashova [Tashtevtsi?], while only 13 percent of the total has been planted in the villages of the Svetlik [Svetlen?] and Yovkova [Jordanovo?] areas and 17 percent in the villages in the Pogoyonda area. "These facts," states the paper, "show the importance of this sabotage activity of the traitorous kulaks."(3)

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Other Bulgarian newspapers and radio commentators have launched a campaign against those who, they claim, favor the Western democracies or the Tito regime, and have demanded that such elements be purged. They are also demanding that Ganev, the famous agriculturalist who was arrested in October 1950 because he had failed to operate the Petleshkova [Petkova?] Farm Workers Cooperative successfully, be declared an "enemy of the people's democracy" and be liquidated.(4)

The most recent reports reaching Edirne reveal that when the peasants learned that the crops which the government had seized, thus leaving them hungry, were to be sent to the USSR, they began to set fire to the warehouses. During December and January, nine wheat depots burned down in Tutrakan Okoliya alone.(3)

SOURCE

1. Istanbul, Cumhuriyet, 31 Jan 51
2. Ibid., 10 Feb 51
3. Ibid., 11 Feb 51
4. Ibid., 12 Feb 51

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